

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said first slit is inclined at an angle in a range of 30 to 90 degrees relative to a line of said zipper.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 59, wherein said first and second lines of weakness are overlapping.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 59, wherein said first and second slits are overlapping.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 59, wherein lower end points of said first and second slits are closer together than are upper end points of said first and second slits.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said header further comprises a seal for sealing said first and second walls together.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said header is integrally formed with said receptacle.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said header comprises a folded piece, said first and second walls of said folded piece being sealed to said receptacle.

Claims 13-57 (Canceled).

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement of said slider relative to said zipper, said slider having a top at a first elevation and a bottom at a second elevation lower than said first elevation, and a header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first wall of said header comprising:

a first line of weakness having a straight portion parallel to said zipper when said zipper is straight, said first line of weakness [[and]] extending across said header at a third elevation that is lower than said second elevation; and

a first slit defined in said first header wall by a pair of internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap when said internal edges lie in a plane, said internal edges meeting at first and second termination points at opposite ends of said first slit, said first termination point being at a fourth elevation higher than said first elevation, and said second termination point being at a fifth elevation lower than said second elevation and at or near said third elevation.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said second wall of said header comprises:

a second line of weakness having a straight portion parallel to said zipper when said zipper is straight and extending across said header at a sixth elevation that is lower than said second elevation; and

a second slit having first and second termination points at opposite ends thereof, neither of said first and second termination points of said second slit being located at one of said first and second side edges, said first termination point of said second slit being at a seventh elevation higher than said first elevation, and said second termination point of said second slit being at an eighth elevation lower than said second elevation and at or near said sixth elevation, said second slit being defined in said first header wall by a pair of mutually parallel internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap when said internal edges lie in a plane.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said first header wall further comprises a tear initiator that starts at said first side edge at a sixth elevation higher than said first elevation.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 60, wherein said tear initiator is a tear notch.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 58, wherein said first line of weakness is a scoreline.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): A package comprising a receptacle having a mouth at an upper end, a flexible zipper attached to said mouth and comprising first and second fastener strips, a slider movably mounted to said zipper for alternately opening or closing portions of said first and second fastener strips depending on the direction of movement

of said slider relative to said zipper, said slider having a top and a bottom, and a header enclosing said zipper and said slider, wherein said header comprises first and second side edges and first and second walls each extending from said first side edge to said second side edge, said first wall of said header comprising:

a tear initiator that starts at said first side edge and terminates at a point located at a first elevation that is higher than said slider top;

a line of weakness having a straight portion parallel to said zipper when said zipper is straight, said line of weakness [[and]] extending across said header at a second elevation that is lower than said slider bottom; and

a slit defined in said first header wall by a pair of internal edges of equal length and separated by substantially no gap when said internal edges lie in a plane, said internal edges meeting at first and second termination points at opposite ends of said slit, neither of said first and second termination points being located at one of said first and second side edges, said first termination point being at or near said first elevation, and said second termination point being at or near said second elevation.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 63, wherein said tear initiator is a tear notch.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): The package as recited in claim 63, wherein said line of weakness is a scoreline.